Julio Guridy, President Ray O'Connell, Vice President

Joseph Davis Jeanette Eichenwald Daryl Hendricks Cynthia Y. Mota Peter Schweyer



Allentown City Council 435 Hamilton Street Allentown, Pa. 18101 AllentownPa.Gov

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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 15, 2014 – 7:00 PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. Invocation: Julio Guridy

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Davis, Eichenwald, Guridy, Hendricks, Mota, O'Connell, Schweyer

Mr. Dale Wiles represented for the Solicitor's Office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager raised concerns about a number of landlords.

Mr. Guridy stated that Mr. Heffentrager mentioned several points and he asked Mr. Dougherty to consider and look into it. He asked to look into the Right to Know Act.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that they spoke on several occasions to have a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss some of these housing issues.

Mr. Dougherty stated that we are working on that with the chair.

Mr. Guridy stated that Mr. Davis will be giving his report when we get to the Community and Economic Development Committee.

Mr. O'Connell agreed to have a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss this issue.

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, asked about the Capital Fund budget. He asked about the Capital Improvements Budget and in that budget there were road improvements from Hamilton Street down to Fourth Street next year. We are going to have a new arena, office building, and hotels and we are going to tie up Hamilton Street. He asked is the Finance Director still on the payroll.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he is back to work.

Mr. Schweyer stated that we discussed at every one of the Budget and Finance reviews of the budget we break the budget up in two nights and every department has an opportunity to be heard and the Capital Improvements were reviewed. I strongly agree that we need to review the scope of work for upcoming Capital Projects.

Ms. Julie Thomases, 824 N. Broad Street, the Allentown EAC is hosting its third sustainable on May 3rd. She asked about filling vacancies on the EAC Board (Environmental Advisory Council). They have three applications waiting for the mayor's approval.

Mr. Dougherty stated as you know we have a multitude of authorities, boards and commissions and at almost all council meetings including tonight we do our best to fill those vacancies on the board. We can't get to every board or commission. The mayor gets to choose the candidates.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he is in full agreement. When we have openings on authorities, boards and commissions it is not like we don't have applicants. For the EAC to function in a viable manner for this city it is very important that those positions are filled.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that we talk about open government and the government by the people and for the people and we have people waiting a whole year to serve the City of Allentown. It is no excuse that these applications are not acted upon.

Ms. Mota asked how many opening are we talking about and how many people on the committee.

Ms. Thomases stated that there are three. There are a maximum of seven and right now there are four.

Mr. Don Ringer, 1801 Liberty Street, raised concerns about the \$4 million consultant fees that we spent on this water deal. He stated that he is upset about the \$200,000 that was spent on PR for this issue. We can build all the arenas and all the downtown buildings and I hope that they succeed, but as long as we don't start caring about people and the neighborhoods and the Allentown School District we are not going to succeed as a city and it will be a strictly 9 to 5 operation down there.

Mr. Ken Heaton, 525 S. 24th Street, asked about his EAC application and wished Council will check on it.

Mr. Matt Hassle, 391 Auburn Street, stated that he just moved here and was looking to join the EAC which I had the first meeting with them the other night. I am a recent Kutztown graduate with a degree in Environmental Science and look forward to using it.

Rev. Erica Bickford, 139 S. Lumber Street – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, stated that St. Paul's doesn't have a shelter. Safe Haven is not a shelter and we need one in the City of Allentown so people can have shelter in a cold night.

Mr. Davis stated that the CED Committee is going to have a public meeting tentatively scheduled for February 12th on the homeless issue.

Mr. Guridy stated that all are welcome to attend.

Mr. O'Connell asked about the Committee of the Whole regarding homelessness.

Mr. Davis stated no, that is about housing. This is totally about the homeless.

Mr. O'Connell asked could all people come from the community. It is tentatively schedule at 6:00 PM on February 12th in Council Chambers and notices will be sent out.

Mr. Ricky Sepulveda, 847 Jackson Street, Hispanic Softball League, stated that the League has played at Jordan Park for the past three years. The League consists of 12 teams and 18 players each for a total of 216 players. He raised concern about the fence at Jordan Park.

Mr. Guridy stated that he spoke to Mr. Sepulveda the other day and we are looking at this. I talked to one of your members for the last couple of days about this issue and I talked to Mr. Dougherty about it. He

stated that one person that has been working on this and is the chairperson of the Parks and Recreation which is Cynthia Mota.

Ms. Mota stated that she has been speaking to Mr. Martinez since last year. On July 11, 2013 I wrote a memo to Mr. Dougherty and spoke to Mr. Mikowychok, Director of Parks and Recreation and according to him, the reason why they have the fence is safety issues. She stated that it costs thousands of dollars to move the light post. There are options.

Mr. Guridy stated that Mr. Dougherty is the managing director of the city and basically overseas all departments in the city.

Mr. Dougherty echoed the sentiments that Ms. Mota has been diligently working on this and trying to find solutions. In the affirmative everything you said is correct. You guys are a great community out there. We have no problem with the use of the field. You have a very active league going on and we welcome that. We have no problems with that. There was a history with this field. There was a fence there prior to you using the field, Jordan # 3. That fence over the years has deteriorated over the years and had to be removed. The city did not have the funds to put the fence back until last October. The fence was put back for liability purposes and to protect the city's interest. The field was designed for and geography for little league and women softball. The city wants to identify a more suitable field perhaps to accommodate all your needs.

Ms. Mota asked Mr. Dougherty to explain the options.

Mr. Dougherty stated that we have a number of options: mostly fields that would accommodate that kind of play. One is Jordan 1 and 2 and another field is Bucky Boyle may accommodate that level of field.

Ms. Mota stated that we are having a meeting tomorrow around 3:30 PM. I am meeting with some stakeholders and people involved in Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Dale Smith, the Grand of the Lehigh Valley – 3631 W. Tilghman Street, stated that they have used private funding to help the homeless get into shelter and get on with their lives. Of the 30 people that we helped last year 22 of them moved into better housing arrangements and gotten jobs and moved on. There is a ministry at St. Paul's that has space on their Parish Hall floor for about 20 – 25 people and the cold snap last week 40 - 50 people showed up that night at Safe Haven. He asked that the lobby of City Hall be open during cold nights, under 32 so people can get out of the cold and into shelter.

Mr. Donnelly, 1139 W Linden Street, echoed what Mr. Smith said before him. There is a meeting planned almost a month from now about this issue. I am not homeless now, but due to unforeseen circumstances on two occasions I was forcibly removed from the premises I was living in and had nowhere to stay. He asked the city to open a building when the temperatures reached freezing levels.

Ms. Diane Teti, 328 N. 8th Street, stated that it is daunting to come up and talk. She stated that she brought two people with her that would like to speak.

Ms. Debra Herman, 836 N. Penn Street, stated because Congress has decided to stop all emergency unemployment, I am without an income and will become Homeless February 1.

Mr. Donald Bates, 46 N. 10th Street, stated that when he wakes up in the morning he thank God he woke up. Where he was and where he is now made a difference in his life. He stated that he chose live out

there. The government did not help me, but I got help from the right people. He hoped that people can get funding to help people get it together.

Ms. Teti asked Council to look at the picture. She stated that she understands that there is a meeting on the 12th. That is news to her and is great news, but the 12th isn't soon enough.

Mr. O'Connell stated that we need to think out of the box. I know when we have an emergency like the gas explosion at 13th and Allen we opened up Ag Hall for emergency shelter. We need to reach out to the school system. We have buildings located in almost every section of this city. We need to open the dialogue.

Ms. Teti stated that she appreciates that and it is an emergency situation. Four years ago before Safe Haven opened and the reason Safe Haven opened because four people died on the streets.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that our tradition teaches us that every generation there are 36 righteous people. We don't always know who they are and in this case we know that you and those who work with you are amongst those. What are you are doing is extraordinary. It is wonderful that we have a meeting schedule for February 12th, it is a month away and it is too long. Human beings cannot wait a whole month to have a safe, warm place in which to be.

Ms. Teti asked are there any emergency measures city council can take. What is the process that needs to happen to make a change so there is an emergency shelter? When you called Ag Hall, who called and how did that happen?

Mr. Guridy stated that it goes to public safety and there is a team.

Mr. Dougherty stated that it is an emergency management team lead by the county DOC.

Mr. Guridy stated that why don't we work towards a solution for this problem and see how we can come up with a consensus.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he has no problem taking it back to the experts, the certified case workers who handle and work with the commission.

Mr. Schweyer asked were there any members of council on this committee or the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners. He suggested a councilperson or county commissioner should be on the committee.

Mr. Guridy stated that it sounds to him that Mr. Davis would be the most appropriate person.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he is not going to volunteer anybody. If what we are talking about is an organization that exists and trying to make policy recommendations. They don't have the ability to implement them. He stated that sometimes streamlining the process by adding one of two members. We cannot, not have a member of the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners on there. They are the social service arm of our region.

Ms. Teti stated that Heidi Baer is the one that oversees the commission.

Rev. Baumann thanked council for hearing the issues tonight. He stated that it has been a long time coming. We have been talking for four years and having a meeting on 12th February is too long. Safe

Haven should never have happened. The idea was to have about four or five, and has increased to forty or so last night.

Mr. Guridy stated to Rev. Baumann that we are looking into this in the next couple of days.

Mr. Chris Cocca noted this is an emergency – there is inadequate amount of space for homeless. It is a lack of bed space in the other shelters in the area.

Ms. Paulette Hunter spoke about the ANIZDA board appointments. She noted more opportunities need to be created for youth and job opportunities for Allentown residents. She suggested jobs to be posted for Allentown residents at least 30 days prior to posting elsewhere. We are not asking for a hand out. We are asking for training, to be able to do resumes and a job fair. They have a Job Taskforce right now, but I don't know if it will be a façade.

Mr. Guridy stated that Council does not control ANIZDA's decisions. I with some of my colleagues talked to ANIZDA and requested some of the things you have. We cannot dictate to them what they have to do.

Ms. Hunter stated you cannot reappoint them if they are not doing right by Allentown residents.

Ms. Jackie Howells, Parish Nurse at St. Paul's Church, invited Council to St. Paul's Church to break bread with some of these people. She took this position because it was to work with the homeless. It has been so humbling and rewarding.

Mr. Guridy stated to Ms. Howells that you invite us any time. He made a promise that he will go.

Ms. Sandy Miller, 1913 S. 5th Street, stated that four generations of her family has used Jordan Park and we moved to the south side. We drove through it a year ago on a weekend and were very disturbed with the appearance and the litter all around the park area. If more people are using the park, maybe we need more trash receptacles or signs.

Mr. Michael Donovan, 122 N. West Street, suggested putting together a Community Plan to deal with issues of tenant/housing, EAC, homeless, schools, children, training, employment, parks and recreation, and neighborhoods. While I was on Council for four years I asked where is the Community Plan.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach, 956 W. Walnut Street, asked about jobs for Allentown and stated that they have been attending the ANIZDA board meetings. We have a breakdown of the budget, the time that city employees spend focusing on the NIZ. She stated that \$50,000 from the ANIZDA's budget will be going to the City of Allentown for security when it opens, eighty-five percent of the Director of Community and Economic Development's time is concerning NIZ type projects, forty-five percent of the Planning Commission Director time is spent on NIZ related projects, fifty percent of the accountants time is spent on NIZ related projects, and seventy percent of the administrative secretary's time is spent on NIZ related projects. Sara Hailstone said that she sees in the near future where the ANIZDA board will slowly lose its grasp and the city will be taking over.

Mr. Guridy asked Ms. Gerlach when she spoke to the ANIZDA board what was their response.

Ms. Gerlach stated that the taskforce will meet on the 22nd and they indicated that should be one of the items of discussion. We learned to be proactive and advocate before it is on the agenda. We proposed it numerous times to the ANIZDA board and not the taskforce. The taskforce will handle such item. They are willing to have conversations and discussions.

Mr. Guridy stated it looks like something is in discussion.

Ms. Eichenwald stated she would like to challenge our legal department that perhaps we can find a way that an ordinances or resolutions can pass that business entities in our city that are operating on public funds would have a minimum of Allentown city residents working in their business.

Mr. Wiles stated that if it is sent to us, we will definitely look into it.

Ms. Gerlach stated that in the meantime it would be great to have a job fair in February.

Mr. Will Roach, 142 S. 8th Street, stated that he wanted to talk about housing and homeless issue. Physical housing is a crisis, but I want to reemphasize what my colleague said earlier. I was a Grand resident back in January and having the right people is a significant part in facing the issue. At the Grand by July, 22 people had stable housing. Funding was an issue at the Grand. You have to have the right motivated people.

Ms. Pam Lewis, 1911 Springhouse Road, stated that she is here to advocate for the homeless. She is a homeless provider. The hands of the federal and state government are tied. My program has been cut. This is a county issue. A home is a basic need and some don't have a basic need.

Mr. Haracio Osduna, First Church of Nazarene, 938 S. 11th Street, stated that he is here to represent Rev. Cologne and they want to help out the homeless.

Mr. Kern stated that his girlfriend dad's house on 117 S. Gilmore Street still hasn't been inspected. He stated that this can help the homeless and tenants that gets displaced, why doesn't Allentown do what Bethlehem does when a property get tagged for unfit for human habitation the money comes out of the landlord if it is his fault for it being tagged. He asked if the Committee of the Whole meeting will be open to the public. He asked if the Housing Taskforce meeting open to the public.

Mr. Guridy asked is it open to the public.

Mr. Davis stated that he is not sure.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he will see what Bethlehem does. He has it in his notes from tonight.

Pastor Gregory Saez, Mission One Ministries – 114 N. 10th Street, stated that they have a nice facility that could help out in this situation for the homeless. He offered his church for any type of emergency to house the homeless. He stated that they have a little food pantry and give out food for the community. We don't have beds, showers, but we have some bathrooms and a lot of floor. If our place can be used we will be able to assist and help the community.

Mr. Guridy thanked the Pastor and asked if he could give his information to Mr. Hanlon.

Ms. Amy Hoffman, 952 W. Walnut Street, stated that she moved here from Philadelphia. She has been threatened and harassed and might suffer a first-time eviction on her record because of a slumlord.

Mr. Rich Fegley, 1002 S. Bradford Street, stated that he lives on South Mountain and asked about timbering of ten acres. The Google Maps has been updated and it shows 500 acres that are protected and preserved by the Wildlands Conservancy, but many private landowners own property there. It has slowly been cleared. They are breaking up the ecosystem. He also stated that he is working with the advocates

for the homeless and there really isn't a standard shelter for the homeless. If they go down to the Rescue Mission there are too many rules and regulations. The Sixth Street Shelter is for women and children. What the Church has done is not official. It doesn't meet code and should be shut down this evening. He asked for Council to suspend the Rules this evening and come up with a decision. It has been five weeks since I presented to Council the information that I feel that is deadly for the City of Allentown. We are going to lose \$113 million. If you do research on landfill studies you will find one for the City of New York that was done in 2002 and Cortland County who has their own landfill. They analyzed all landfills through the state of New York. One report is 138 pages analyzing landfill costs. He asked Council to ask for a Right to Know on the 138 page study that Mr. Schlossberg reviewed. He asked Council did they ask the Mayor where did he come up with the \$92.29.

Mr. Guridy stated that he did and the answer was that it is more than what you are saying involved in this deal. There is a special deal done with Easton.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that we as City Councilmembers were told these numbers. They came up to the podium and gave the exact numbers through all of her years with the city. Everyone that voted for the Delta Thermo contract heard that and knew that and made that decision.

Mr. Fegley stated that he remembers members of Council saying that the numbers were a little confusing just like the mayor is fooling you again.

Mr. Schweyer asked did Wildlands have a property map of the Walking Park. I would like to see who owns what there.

Mr. Fegley stated that with Wildlands it is Chris Tucker. Chris Tucker sent a map and noted on the map where my home was at the corner there and they marked the lands that the Wildlands is in charge of and they marked city property. You can see the private land in Allentown and Salisbury where the forest and the Parks Director is saying that it is not being clear cut.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he remembers the logging issue a few years ago. I am curious to see if there are private owned parcels that we could potential acquire through the years.

5. Approval of Minutes: December 18, 2013

Minutes approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

None

7. Communications

None

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The Budget and Finance has not met since the last meeting; the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 22nd at 6 PM.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The committee has not met since the last meeting; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled. She said to her sadness and chagrin the early departure of the Fire Chief. He has done a remarkable job and a man with integrity and he kept our city safe and has done an excellent job.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled for February 12th.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Hendricks

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting will be scheduled to review draft amendments to council rules.

Special Committee – Tax Exempt Properties – Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee has not met, but she is pleased to announce that we have come to an agreement with Muhlenberg College and I hope in the very near to make that agreement public. We are making progress; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Schweyer stated that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission had a reorganization and elected a new chairman which is Mr. Kent Herman and he is an attorney in Bethlehem.

Mr. Davis stated that 2014 marks the 35th year of the ADEC and 25 years of the incubator program. Over the course of the 25 years they helped 45 companies get founded and grow and these companies created more than 285 jobs. There are six companies in the incubation right now. There are 11 full-time and 14 part-time positions. These companies generate \$1.5 million in revenue for 2012. There are three new companies joining the incubation in the quarter. It will be bringing seven full-time and five part-time jobs to Allentown. He stated with the Housing Strategy this is a major problem that we are facing in Allentown. There is a lack of finances and inspector and the city is trying to keep up with the inspections that they do. We hear a lot about Act 90. Dave Paulus is going to a seminar tomorrow to find out if it could be implemented.

Mr. Guridy stated let's work on finding a date for the Committee Of The Whole and invite the community people to provide some solutions.

Controller's Report

Ms. Koval stated that at the December 18th Council meeting there were questions asked regarding the \$50 million that was to be deposited into various pension funds. The deposit was made on December 23rd. The Fire Fund received \$61,200,000, O & E received \$4,300,000 and the Police Fund received \$84,500,000 which totals \$150 million.

Managing Director's Report

None

9. APPOINTMENTS:

RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS - SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Ellen Bishop 01/21/2015 Robert Smith 01/21/2015

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Sherri Brokopp Binder 12/31/2016 Monica Chibber 10/25/2016 Lindsay Harren-Lewis 01/05/2016 Preston Lee 12/31/2016

Mr. Robert Smith congratulated all the Council winners and to Ms. Eichenwald I miss you on the board and wished Mr. Schweyer good luck on his future aspirations. He thanked the Mayor and stated that the school relations with the city are working on an all-time high. He wished Mr. O'Connell and his family well. Now that we put the uniforms in place, incidents are an all-time low. We have more kids going out for basketball this year than ever before and keeping them off the streets. He stated that he will talk to Mr. Mayo to talk about the homeless issue.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he and Mr. Smith worked together for many years. I thank you for great community service. It is imperative that we look at opening our gyms for the homelessness and most needy.

Mr. Guridy seconded that.

Ms. Eichenwald stated to Mr. Smith that it gives her personal pleasure to have him here with us. I know that the school district is in good hands in your hands.

Mr. Guridy thanked Mr. Smith for giving positive feedback for the city and the school district. He thanked Ce Ce Gerlach for doing the event to raise funding for families that did not have any money for the uniforms.

Mr. Dougherty stated that at the next Council meeting you will be voting on additional members of the Recreation Board, including a reappointment of Julie Ambrose.

Ms. Binder stated that she very much appreciates to serve the city on the Human Relations Commission. She is a community and cultural psychologist.

Ms. Harren-Lewis stated that she is one of the Pastors at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown and she and her husband been here for the last four and a half year and looks forward to serving the community.

Ms. Chibber thanked Council for the reappointment and said she looks forward to serving on the commission again. She has been a commissioner since May 2011 and it is a great opportunity and experience and she enjoys every minute of it.

Mr. Heffentrager asked what the Human Relations Commission do.

Ms. Mota stated with a lot of great appointees they are going to a great job. They do many things. If you have any issues with discrimination that is a place to go and they meet once a month and if you have any issues you can give us a call and we can help you regarding that.

Mr. Heffentrager asked what form and if it has to do with the city itself.

Ms. Mota stated that any dispute and discrimination.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

None

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 1 Basin Street Funds

Referred to Public Works

Amending the 2014 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an appropriation of Five Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$575,000.00) reflecting 100% reimbursable federal funds for the Construction and Inspection of the proposed safety improvements on Basin Street.

Bill 2 Cities of Service Impact Volunteering Fund Grant

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$21,865) as a result of a grant from City of Service. The Cities of Service Impact Volunteering Fund Grant is part of an initiative to help cities use service as "strategy to tackle pressing local challenges." The City of Allentown proposed a new initiative to address quality of life issues such as graffiti, littered neighborhoods and illegal dumping.

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

CA-1 HARB - HARB Cases

Certificates for Work in the Historic Districts: 1037 W Turner St and 410 N 8th St

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

None

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

R-1 SEWAGE PLANNING MODULE -THREE CITY CENTER

Sewage Planning Module for Three Center City

Mr. O'Connell stated that this is no big issue and the Resolution indicates that the city has enough sewage capacity to allow this parcel to connect to the city system.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 - 0

R-2 APPROVES CITY AUDITOR

R-2 Approves Auditor for 2013, 2014 and 2015

Mr. Schweyer stated that as per our Rules we have an annual audit and do a CAFR every year. This is for our RFP for our audit. We go out for a three year RFP. This is for a three year contract and after the three years we will have to find another firm. We thanked Ms. Bowman, Ms. Koval and Mr. Hanlon who worked along with me.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 - 0

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Heffentrager asked if the Housing Strategy Committee meeting is open to the public.

Mr. Guridy stated tomorrow.

Mr. Davis stated that he will give the information to Mr. Hanlon.

17. ADJOURNED: 9:15 PM